

**14.22**<sup>(1)</sup> (Ray-Chaudhuri–Wilson 1975). Prove the following uniform version of Theorem 14.13: if  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  is a  $k$ -uniform  $L$ -intersecting family of subsets of an  $n$ -element set, then  $m \leq \binom{n}{s}$ , where  $s = |L|$ .

*Sketch* (Alon–Babai–Suzuki 1991): Start as in the proof of Theorem 14.13 and define the same polynomials  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  of degree at most  $s$ . Associate with each subset  $I$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  of cardinality  $|I| \leq s-1$  the following polynomial of degree at most  $s$ :

$$g_I(x) = \left( \left( \sum_{j=1}^n x_j \right) - k \right) \prod_{i \in I} x_i,$$

and observe that for any subset  $S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $g_I(S) \neq 0$  if and only if  $|S| \neq k$  and  $S \supseteq I$ . Use this property to show that the polynomials  $g_I$  together with the polynomials  $f_i$  are linearly independent. For this, assume

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i + \sum_{|I| \leq s-1} \mu_I g_I = 0$$

for some  $\lambda_i, \mu_I \in \mathbb{R}$ . Substitute  $A_j$ 's for the variables in this equation to show that  $\lambda_j = 0$  for every  $j = 1, \dots, m$ . What remains is a relation among the  $g_I$ . To show that this relation must be also trivial, assume the opposite and re-write this relation as  $\mu_1 g_{I_1} + \dots + \mu_t g_{I_t} = 0$  with all  $\mu_i \neq 0$  and  $|I_1| \geq |I_j|$  for all  $j > 1$ . Show that then  $g_{I_1}(I_1) \neq 0$  and  $g_{I_1}(I_j) = 0$  for all  $j > 1$ .

**14.23.** Let  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  and  $B_1, \dots, B_m$  be subsets of an  $n$ -element set such that  $|A_i \cap B_i|$  is odd for all  $1 \leq i \leq m$ , and  $|A_i \cap B_j|$  is even for all  $1 \leq i < j \leq m$ . Show that then  $m \leq n$ .

**14.24**<sup>(1)</sup> (Frankl–Wilson 1981). Let  $p$  be a prime, and  $n = 4p - 1$ . Consider the graph  $G = (V, E)$  whose vertex set  $V$  consists of all 0-1 vectors of length  $n$  with precisely  $2p - 1$  1's each; two vectors are adjacent if and only if the Euclidean distance between them is  $\sqrt{2p}$ . Show that  $G$  has no independent set of size larger than  $\sum_{i=0}^{p-1} \binom{n}{i}$ .

*Hint:* Use Exercise 14.8 to show that two vectors from  $V$  are adjacent in  $G$  precisely when they share  $p - 1$  1's in common, and apply Theorem 14.14.

*Comment:* This construction was used by Frankl and Wilson (1981) to resolve an old problem proposed by H. Hadwiger in 1944: how many colors do we need in order to color the points of the  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^n$  so that each monochromatic set of points misses some distance? A set is said to *miss distance*  $d$  if no two of its points are at distance  $d$  apart from each other. Larman and Rogers (1972) proved that Hadwiger's problem reduces to the estimating the minimum number of colors  $\chi(n)$  necessary to color the points of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that pairs of points of unit distance are colored differently. The graph  $G$  we just constructed shows that  $\chi(n) \geq 2^{\Omega(n)}$  (see the next exercise). Kahn and Kalai (1993) used a similar construction to disprove another 60 years old and widely believed conjecture of K. Borsuk (1933) that every set of diameter one in  $n$ -dimensional real space  $R^n$  can be partitioned in at most  $n + 1$  disjoint pieces of smaller diameter. Kahn and Kalai presented an infinite sequence of examples where the minimum number of pieces grew as an exponential function of  $\sqrt{n}$ , rather than just as a linear function  $n + 1$ , as conjectured. Interested reader can find these surprising solutions in the book of Babai and Frankl (1992).